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Jackie's Budget Battles in the Book

United Press International

NEW YORK—Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' personal bills, which totaled $28,000 during one two-month period in the White House, were a source of worry and annoyance to President John F. Kennedy, her former personal secretary said Monday.

In an excerpt from her book, "My Life With Jacqueline Kennedy," which appears in the August Ladies Home Journal, Mary Barelli Gallagher said there were perennial "budget disputes" in the Kennedy household and she was "always in the middle."

After the President's assassination, Mrs. Kennedy tried to economize by cutting down on staff salaries and could not understand "that her small staff did not like being called on to provide all the services, accommodations, conveniences and comforts that she had grown so used to receiving from a much larger staff during her years at the White House," Mrs. Gallagher said. "Her staff's attitude, so far as I could see, puzzled her."

The book has been attacked by a number of Mrs. Onassis' friends and former associates as unfair and a betrayal of trust. But the former First Lady has made no comment or any move to enforce an agreement Mrs. Gallagher, like other members of her staff, signed promising not to publish any inside stories about the household.

Mrs. Gallagher said Kennedy a number of times demanded accountings of his wife's expenses and she would have to work late into the night preparing the figures. Finally, Mrs. Gallagher said, she decided to "run the other way or use the waiters' elevator" when she heard the President ring for the regular elevator because she wanted to avoid new confrontations over the budget.

Listing her employer's bills, Mrs. Gallagher said the then-First Lady spent about $5000 for clothing, $7000 for liquor and food, $340 for hairdressing and $1600 for works of art in the month of January, 1962.

"The totals for January and February, 1963, indicated some improvement over the first two months of 1962," she reported to the President.

"Jackie's personal expenses for the first two months of 1963 had come down by more than $12,000—to a total of about $16,000."

Mrs. Gallagher said this was partly because Mrs. Kennedy spent only $2000 for clothing in January 1963 when she was pregnant "and not buying many clothes." And two new paintins were the Christmas gift of her husband.

Trying to cut down on her expenses, Mrs. Kennedy wrote regretfully to "her clothes scout in Paris" in April 1963 that she could not afford to try a new French designer who "sounded fabulous," Mrs. Gallagher said. But she suggested that her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, "buy a suit so Jackie could borrow it any time."

After the assassination, the former First Lady decided she could not "afford to pay all my help from the $50,000" congressional appropriation, Mrs. Gallagher said.

Mrs. Gallagher described a series of misunderstandings that led to a "blast" from Mrs. Kennedy and the accusation that "you're throwing your weight around." She said the attack left her so "hurt and humiliated" that she refused to take any telephone calls from her employer for 24 hours.

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